

# Westside Stories

"The Pride of the Westside"

A community newspaper by and for residents of the Leeward Coast of O'ahu, Hawai'i  
Direct mailed to over 15,400 residences in the areas of Nānākuli, Mā'ili, Wai'anae, Mākaha and Mākua

April 2026  
Volume 29, Number 4

## Voices of Tradition: NHIS Songfest Celebrates Hawaiian Myths and Legends

Submitted by Promise Jellings-Faletogo

On February 27, the Nānākuli High and Intermediate School (NHIS) held their annual Songfest and, for the first time in years, all grade six grade levels participated.

Songfest started in 1991 as a mandatory event. As years passed it became a voluntary event, which took a toll on

the participation. This year, the format changed allowing any participating grade to combine with another grade level. Bumping up the competition, each class chose to participate this year.

With the theme of "Nā Mo'olelo a me

nā Ka'ao o ka Wā Kahiko: Myths and Legends," each class chose a story from Hawaiian culture and shared it through song, perpetuating the Hawaiian culture while also learning about genealogy and ancestral knowledge.

Every student participant, coach, advisor and others who helped along the way volunteered their time into helping this event come to life. Many students, along with some coaches, faced issues

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The annual NHIS serves as a unifying event that brings all classes together, celebrating Hawaiian music and culture.

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## Happy Easter - Sunday, April 5, 2026

Presorted Standard U.S. POSTAGE PAID HONOLULU, HI PERMIT NO. 169

## Matthew "Messiah" Cargo Vies for BGCH Youth of the Year

Submitted by Maribell Pabalan

The Boys & Girls Club of Hawai'i (BGCH) honored its youth leaders on February 28 during a deeply moving luncheon at Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, where Matthew "Messiah" Cargo of the Wai'anae Clubhouse was named a finalist for the 2026 BGCH Youth of the Year.

Among the fourteen BGCH nominees across O'ahu and Kaua'i, Messiah Cargo from the Wai'anae Clubhouse, Uriah Aranas and Promise Jellings-Faletogo of the Nānākuli Teen Center were selected as the three finalists and delivered powerful, inspirational stories at the luncheon, sharing journeys of healing after loss, overcoming fear of failure, and discovering their own identities. Messiah, who took top honors, delivered an emotionally riveting speech as he chose to honor his friend whose life was recently lost in a pedestrian crash.

"I chose to show up and honor them like they would have wanted. In grief, we return to what feels like home, and for me, that



Matthew "Messiah" Cargo (center) celebrates on stage with fellow Youth of the Year finalists and Nānākuli High and Intermediate School Assistant Principals.

home is the Boys and Girls Club, a place that helped me as a baby, became my first home, and introduced me to the Youth of the Year program. My Youth Leader helped me grieve my father and once again, gave me space to turn my indescribable thoughts

onto paper, and to share them out loud. It has silently claimed a special place in my heart," said Messiah.

The Youth of the Year program provides participants five months of character and

Continued on page 5



# From the Publisher

By Steve Olbrich

Please visit our Facebook page for updated events that are happening throughout the month here on our Westside



Last month's Kona Low storm created devastation throughout our islands especially here on O'ahu. The strength and duration of the storm with high winds, massive amounts of rain and flooding caught many of us by surprise. The amount of rain received here on our Westside in less than ten days was more than our normal annual rainfall and many suffered major flooding and property loss. Roads were washed out including sections of our Emergency Bypass Road. It was heartwarming to see that many of our friends and neighbors stepped up immediately to help those in need putting others before their own needs. Emergency food, clothing and necessary essential drives were quickly staged and are still ongoing. Mahalo to our first responders, the City & County and State road crews and to Hawaiian Electric, Hawaiian Telcom and Spectrum for being out there day and night trying to get services up and running.

Congratulations to Robin Kitsu and

the talented cast and crew of Nānākuli Performing Arts Center on their production of "The Little Mermaid." You can still catch performances on April 2,3 and 4 at Nanakuli High's Multi-Purpose Building.

Easter/Passover season has begun. Make sure you check out Ark of Safety's Easter Egg Hunt on April 3 and 4 at Wai'anae Intermediate School (see ad on page 5).

Merrie Monarch Week kicks off on April 5 and runs through April 11 in Hilo. Activities and events are scheduled throughout the week with the Hō'ike on April 8, Miss Aloha Hula on April 9, Kahiko night on April 10 and 'Auana night on April 11. The main events will be shown on television on KFVE (K5) and all Hawaii News Now digital platforms.

Once again mahalo to all of you who stepped up to help our Westside community through the past weeks of devastation. Westsiders are always there to help each other! #PaaPono

# Aloha, Colleen Hanabusa

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Colleen Wakako Hanabusa on March 5 at the age of 74, after a private battle with cancer. She dedicated her life to advocating for the people of Hawaii, leaving an indelible mark on both local, state and federal politics. To many of us here on the Westside, she was just "Aunty Colleen" who attended school events, football games, community events and much more.

Westside Stories invites you to share your memories and photos of her with us to be published as a memorial in an upcoming issue. Please e-mail your memory and photo to us at [wss@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:wss@hawaii.rr.com) by April 15 so we can share. Mahalo!



### Waianae Coast Rotary Club Scholarship Program

Applications for the Waianae Coast Rotary Club (WCRC) 2026 scholarships applications for graduating high school seniors who live in or attend school within zip code 96792 are still available. Visit [www.waianae coastrotary.org](http://www.waianae coastrotary.org) or [contact@waianae coastrotary.org](mailto:contact@waianae coastrotary.org) or at your school's college and career offices for more information.

Application Deadline: April 6, 2026

### Wai'anae District Park Dedication Ceremony Set For April 11

The public is invited to a special dedication ceremony on April 11 at 10 am as Wai'anae District Park is officially renamed the Shinyei Nakamine and 100th Infantry Battalion Memorial Park. The event honors Shinyei Nakamine, a Wai'anae native and Medal of Honor recipient who gave his life during World War II and to honor the courage, sacrifice, and lasting legacy the soldiers of the 100th Infantry Battalion, one of the most highly decorated units in U.S. military history.

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Email: [lawyers@regonakoalaw.com](mailto:lawyers@regonakoalaw.com) | Web: [regonakoalaw.com](http://regonakoalaw.com)  
APPOINTMENTS BY TELEPHONE, ZOOM OR IN PERSON



Last month's question was. "I'm a visiting kupuna and am looking for light exercise program and a social-type group for crafts or just socializing here during the day."

The Wai'anae Coast YMCA, located at 86-071 Leihoku Street, offers a variety of classes. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays — 9:30 am 2 hours of exercise and Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention; 10:30 am — Cardio and Strength class.

Tuesdays and Thursdays — 9 am to

12 pm — Pickleball. Call Deborah for information at 808-541-5255.

Now for this month's niele question, "I went by Wai'anae Library on Friday and was surprised to see Community Court being held in their meeting room. What is Community Court and what types of cases are being adjudicated there?"

If you know the answer or want to ask a niele question, e-mail us at [wss@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:wss@hawaii.rr.com) and we'll try to feature in an upcoming issue.

### Contributors to this Month's Issue:

Nicki Brown, Dd Chang, Nick Childs, Kaiwi Coakley, Adam Davis, Denise Della-Sabas, Kelsey Domingo, Sally Ford, Lei'a Haff, Promise Jellings-Faletogo, Kristle Jury-Hale, Denice Keliikoa, Robin Kitsu, Kristen Macadamia, Maribell Pabalan, Crystal Pang, Nick Smith, Kelly Stinefelt

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who contributed to their community newspaper and we invite everyone to do the same.

Next issue: May 2026 • Story & Advertising Deadline: April 10, 2026



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Direct mailed to over 15,400 residences in the areas of Nānākuli, Mā'ili, Wai'anae, Mākaha and Mākua  
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# F.O.W.L.

## Friends Of Wai'anae Library

In April, F.O.W.L. will feature: Gardening, Science and Rainbows.

# Let's Build Pilina!

Submitted by Nick Childs

Huuui Wai'anae! Aloha mai from Ka'ena to Nānākuli! We are Hawai'i Papa O Ke Ao Native Hawaiian Place of Learning Advancement Office, and we are inviting you to strengthen and build pilina, or deep relationships and connections, with yourself, community and 'āina!

Funded through Hawai'i Sea Grant's Pili Nā Moku - a program committed to 'āina restoration and climate resilience in Hawai'i - our team is hosting free monthly workshops that invite you to be a part of this resiliency project. Our office's role is to provide tools for communication, storytelling and connection with 'āina. We hope to strengthen pilina (connection/relationship) in Wai'anae while empowering community members to envision a more sustainable and resilient Wai'anae. The overarching goals of these workshops is to mālama one another by engaging with kānaka

and 'ohana who are pili to and a part of our communities.

At our workshops, you will learn about Hawaiian culture through both modern and traditional practices of building connections to one other and 'āina, and we hope that after attending one of our events, you will walk away with a strengthened understanding of a few ways you can share your stories to build and cultivate community, to better honor yourself, one another, and Hawai'i in the process.

These free workshops take place on select Saturdays throughout Wai'anae and 'Ewa, and we bring breakfast snacks, the most "ono" lunch and all costs associated with the hana no'eau. We just ask you to bring yourself!

Please come as you are, individually or as a family, and children are always more than welcome. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nick at [nhpol@hawaii.edu](mailto:nhpol@hawaii.edu) Please register using our link: [go.hawaii.edu/qvD](http://go.hawaii.edu/qvD) or our QR code on the ad on page 6.

## Wai'anae Coast YMCA

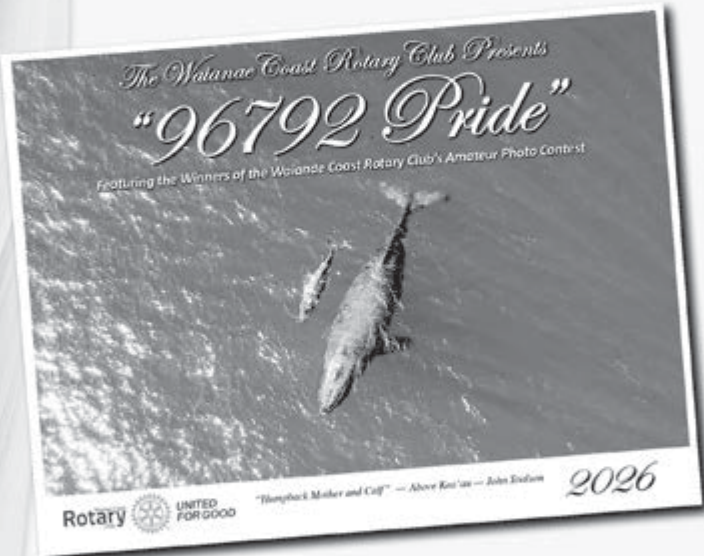
The Wai'anae Coast YMCA, located at 86-071 Leihoku street is offering a variety of classes. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays — 9:30 am 2 hours of exercise and Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention. 10:30 am — Cardio and Strength class. Tuesdays and Thursdays — 9 am to 12 pm — Pickleball.  
Call Deborah for information at 808-541-5255.

## Announcing the ROTARY 2027 "96792 PRIDE" CALENDAR AMATEUR PHOTO CONTEST!



DEADLINE for receiving photos is June 30, 2026.

Winning photos will be featured in the 2027 "96792 Pride" Calendar  
For more information, please visit: [www.waianaeastrotary.org](http://www.waianaeastrotary.org)



- 1) Photos must be taken from anywhere between Kahe Point to Ka'ena Point - Any place in the 96792 zip code area.
- 2) No more than 3 entries per person.
- 3) Entrants must be amateurs — *no professionals please!*
- 4) Original photos only.
- 5) E-mail us your digital photos in high resolution (*landscape format please*).
- 6) Include in your e-mail: a) your name; b) your address; c) phone number; d) e-mail address; e) title of photo; f) location where photo was taken.

Email photos to: [96792pride@waianaeastrotary.org](mailto:96792pride@waianaeastrotary.org)

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# Legislatively Speaking



Representative  
**Darius  
Kila**  
House District 44  
Mā'ili, Nānākuli,  
Honokai Hale

## Standing Together Through Response and Recovery

Over the past several weeks, our communities on the Wai'anae Coast, and

across Hawai'i, have faced challenging conditions as a result of severe weather and related impacts. From flooding and power outages to roadway hazards and infrastructure strain, the effects have been widespread and deeply felt.

In the midst of all of this, what has stood out most is the unwavering commitment of our first responders, public servants, and volunteers.

Our firefighters, police officers, emergency medical personnel, Depart-

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Representative  
**CHRISTOPHER  
Muraoka**  
House District 45  
Wai'anae, Mākaha  
Mākua

During the legislative session, I continue working on measures that address issues important to our community—from cost of living and housing to education, public safety and economic opportunities. Your input remains an important part of this process, and I always welcome hearing from residents of District 45.

One of the best ways to connect is through our upcoming "Talk Story" session and I invite you to join me on April 24, at the YMCA in Wai'anae, located at 86-071 Leihoku Street. We will gather from 7 to 8:30 pm for an open conversation about the legislative session, community concerns, and ideas for strengthening our West O'ahu communities. These informal gatherings are a great opportunity to ask questions, share perspectives and learn more about the work being done at the State Capitol.

In addition, we will be hosting a "Hiring Blitz and Career Exposure Fair" on May 5 from 11am to 1pm at the Ark of Safety Center at Wai'anae Mall. This event will be open to the public and is designed to connect residents with em-

ployment opportunities while also providing exposure to a variety of career pathways. If you are currently looking for a job, considering a career change, or simply interested in learning more about opportunities available in our community, I encourage you to attend and take advantage of the resources that will be available.

Events like these help strengthen the connection between government, local organizations and the people we serve. By working together, we can continue building a stronger future for our families and our Westside community.

If you have questions or would like assistance, please contact my office at (808) 586-8460 or email [repmuraoka@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repmuraoka@capitol.hawaii.gov) You can also visit [www.repmuraoka.com](http://www.repmuraoka.com) and follow us on Instagram and Facebook for the latest updates, community events, and legislative news. I look forward to seeing many of you in the community soon.



Representative Chris Muraoka with W.H.S. Principal Aaron Tominaga



Rep. Kila joined House colleagues at a recent Easter basket drive, where collected donations were distributed to five organizations serving women, children, and families.



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## Friday, May 1, 2026

**9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**  
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### BGCH Youth of the Year

*Continued from front page*

leadership development. They must demonstrate life and workforce readiness and be able to articulate the impact their Club has had on their personal growth. Beyond their achievements, finalists actively engage in their communities, advocating for youth-related issues while inspiring meaningful change through motivating their peers.

Messiah will advance to the Hawai'i State Youth of the Year Competition on March 31, with the opportunity to continue on to the Regional and National levels.



Messiah and his mom take a "selfie" to commemorate the event

## Open Market Fest!



**Mākaha Valley Country Club**  
**Saturday,**  
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*Crosswinds*  
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NHIS Principal Christine Udarbe

## NHIS Principal Christine Udarbe a Finalist for Principal of the Year

*Submitted by Adam Davis*

Christine Udarbe, the principal at Nānākuli High and Intermediate School has been named one of three finalists for the National High School Principal of the Year award. She'll be honored at a gala in Washington, D.C., on April 17, where the winner will be announced.

Christine Udarbe, EdD, has served as NHIS Principal since 2022 and was named the 2026 Hawaii Secondary Principal of the Year by the Hawaii Association of Secondary School Ad-

ministrators. Previously, she was recognized as a 2023 NAESP Leeward District Distinguished Principal. Through visionary, data-driven leadership, she has led a comprehensive campus transformation grounded in restorative and trauma-informed practices, systemic safety improvements, and strong stakeholder collaboration. Her work has fostered a safe, trusting, and emotionally supportive environment where all students can thrive academically and socially.

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# West Side Transition Fair Connects Wai‘anae Coast Families with Post-High School Resources

Submitted by Kristen Macadamia

The Kamaile Academy Public Charter School’s cafeteria was buzzing with conversation, laughter and the smell of fresh local food on February 13, as students, families, and community organizations gathered for the West Side Transition Fair — an event focused on helping Wai‘anae Coast youth plan their next steps after high school.

Hosted by Kamaile Academy Public Charter School in partnership with Wai‘anae High School and Nānaku-

li High and Intermediate School, the fair welcomed 245 attendees from across the Westside for a lively night of learning, networking and community support. Families moved from booth to booth meeting representatives from more than a dozen organizations that support young adults transitioning into the next phase of life. Service providers such as Abilities Unlimited, Easterseals Hawai‘i, and the Hawai‘i Disability Rights Center shared information on programs focused on employment, col-

lege and training opportunities, independent living skills and mental health support.

The event was designed to be more than just informational — it was interactive as well as at check-in, each family received a program guide, a map of the resource stations, and a playful “Black-out Bingo” card encouraging them to strike up conversations with every provider in the room. As families visited booths organized into categories like Employment, Education and Training,

Independent Living Resources, Needs-Based Services, Self-Advocacy and Mental Health Support, they collected stickers to fill their cards. Completed cards could be turned in for food and refreshments, turning resource-hunting into a friendly community challenge.

Meanwhile, students themselves helped power the evening by showcasing student-run culinary teams from the participating schools served up a menu that kept the crowd well fed: chili

*Continued on page 14*



Transitions Specialist Kristen Macadamia posing with shakas will Kamaile student volunteers from Nav Brew Crew, Kūkini Track & Field Team, National Honor Society - Navigators' Chapter, and Kū'i Kā Lono.



The West Side Transition Fair Planning Team! (From Left to Right) Transition Coordinators Kristen Macadamia, Cyrilla Manuel, Ron Yanos and Community Relations Program Assistant Tina King



American Job Center Hawaii's Jazon Hidalgo providing information to Kamaile Academy Ms. Reinylee Frantela.

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Questions email: nhpol@hawaii.edu

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# NHIS Songfest

Continued from front page

when scheduling practices due to conflicts such as sports, clubs or even work. Some classes found it easier to practice during study hall while some planned their practices in the evening. Despite conflicts, the students persevered to represent their class.

This year, the class of 2028 was coached primarily by a student Jacob Kalānui Kamaunu with the assistance of advisor Chloe Kitsu and NHIS Class of 2020 alumna Alysia-Leila Kepa'a. "When I talk about student-run, this is what it's about. The kids came together, everything was made and organized by them," said Kitsu. "I am so proud. Last year, we couldn't participate due to low interest. I'm proud of these students for sticking it out and committing."

Along with the new format also came a few new judges, who offered new perspectives to the traditional event. Judge and singer Lina Robins, who in previous years assisted in coaching during songfest said, "It's an honor to be here as a judge - I'm just so proud of everybody, everybody did great tonight."



The Classes of 2026/2027 celebrate winning the overall Song award category.

Once the singing was completed, the event moved on to a Hō'ike as the points were tallied to find the winners. There are nine awards sponsored by various organizations and community partners. Here were the results:

Maxine Hee Songfest Class Participation Award — Middle School Class of 2030 and 2031; Papa Ho'okeha Award Class Spirit — Freshmen Class of 2029;

Papa Ho'olōkahi Award Overall Appearance — Tie between Freshmen Class of

2029 and Senior-Junior Class of 2026 and 2027; 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Award: Sophomore Class of 2028;

The Agnes Cope Song Leader Award

— Senior-Junior Class of 2026 and 2027; HYAASA Class Speaker Ha'i 'Ōlelo Award — Tie between Middle School Class of 2030 and 2031 and Senior-Junior Class of 2026 and 2027; Nā Leo Nahenahē Perpetual Award Arrangement — Senior-Junior Class of 2026 and 2027 and Kulia I Ka Nu'u Award — Senior-Junior Class of 2026 and 2027.

The last award was the NHIS Overall Song Award, the award that the students and audience anxiously waited for. After careful counting, the Senior-Junior Class of 2026 and 2027 took home first place, the Sophomore Class of 2028 took home second place, the Freshman Class of 2029 took home third place, and the Middle School Class of 2030 and 2031 took home fourth place.

As Songfest came to an end, all the classes came together to create a Senior Rainbow, where the seniors lead the school in the final three songs: "Oli Mahalo, Hawai'i Aloha" and the NHIS Alma Mater.

### Wai'anae Hawaiian Civic Club Scholarships Available

Applications for the 2026 Wai'anae Hawaiian Civic Club scholarship awards are now available for any college bound student residing in the 96792-zip code.

Email [waianaehawaiiancivicclub@gmail.com](mailto:waianaehawaiiancivicclub@gmail.com) to apply or at high school counselors at Wai'anae High, Nānākuli High, Kamaile Academy, at the Kamehameha Schools Learning Centers, and at both public libraries in Nānākuli and Wai'anae.

Please call Dd Chang (808-551-4648) if you have questions.

10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**KO OLINA CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL**  
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 3 - 8 PM

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100% OF TICKET SALES BENEFIT

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[KOO LIN A CHILDRENS FESTIVAL.COM](https://www.koolinachildrensfestival.com)  
 PRESENTED BY KO OLINA RESORT OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

**TheHandi-Van**  
 City and County of Honolulu  
 To get more information about TheHandi-Van eligibility process, call 808-538-0033.

**RELL SUNN MENEHUNE CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
 47<sup>th</sup> Annual  
 Mākaha Beach Hawaii  
 April 4th & 5th 2026

JOHN GIOMB

Ko Olina | OHA OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS | QUIKSILVER  
 HONOLULU FOUNDATION | DUKE'S WAIKIKI | Hurley | KAMA KAI



WAIANAЕ COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER

# NEWSLETTER

Ka Leo o ke ALOHA, a me ka Leo o ke OLA. The Voice of ALOHA, and the voice of HEALTH.

SERVING WEST OAHU SINCE 1972 | WAIANAЕ · NANAKULI · KAPOLEI · EWA · WAIPAHU

APRIL 2026 | RICHARD BETTINI, PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | DR. DONALD SIMPSON, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER | GINGER FUATA, CHAIRPERSON

## WCCHC LISTENS, LEARNS, & IMPROVES THROUGH PATIENT FEEDBACK

At WCCHC, listening to patients does not stop when a visit ends. Each quarter, a random sample of patients who received care in person or remotely are contacted through live-person bilingual telephone interviews and asked about their experience, from whether they were treated with aloha to wait times, staff courtesy, and overall quality of care. In Q4 2025, that process included 450 completed surveys. When patients share concerns and agree to be contacted, service recovery reports are also sent in real time so teams can follow up directly and learn from that feedback.

The results from 2025 data show that it is going well. WCCHC earned a 97.1 treated with aloha score, which ties with 2017 for our highest score ever. WCCHC also posted a 94.4 overall satisfaction score. The overall quality of care trend also remained strong with our highest score to date, rising from 93.4 in 2021 to 94.4 in 2025.

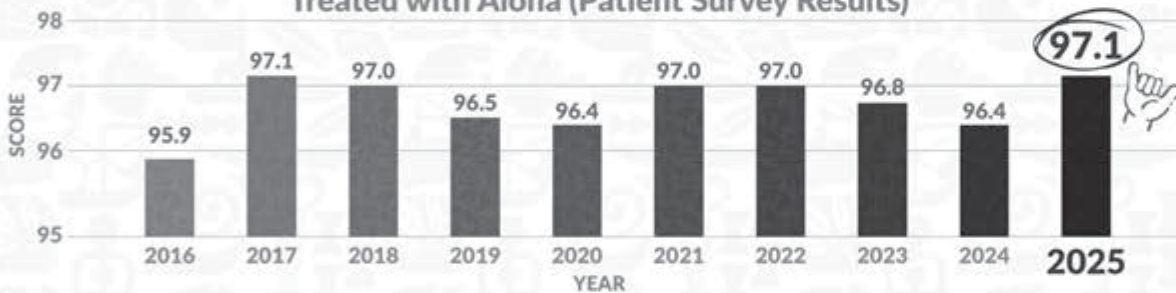
Patients described that experience in their own words. One shared about their provider, "She's awesome, and she really listened. She went back to old numbers, reviewed everything, and was very thorough in reading

symptoms and history." Another said, "The staff is knowledgeable and helpful. The location is convenient, as it is near my home. They accommodate my schedule by working with a date and time that works well for me. I am very satisfied with the care that I received."

The survey also helps identify where improvement is needed. The phone wait experience data indicated that more than half of surveyed callers waited longer than one minute to reach scheduling support. While many patients still praised the care they received, this is an area where WCCHC can acknowledge frustration and continue working to improve access. In 2025, WCCHC underwent a phone upgrade which did not roll out as anticipated, leading to longer wait times until the upgrade was complete.

Patient feedback helps WCCHC do two important things at once: celebrate what is working and respond where improvement is needed. That is how our health center provides better, comprehensive healthcare, by listening closely, following up, and continuing to serve the community with aloha.

### Treated with Aloha (Patient Survey Results)



## STORM RELIEF

### COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

In Response to Recent Severe Storm Impacts

### MAHALO TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

### SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES, FARMERS, & COMMUNITY RECOVERY

Locations:  
**Waianae Boat Harbor**  
**Nanakuli High & Intermediate School**

In Partnership with:

## 2026 ANNUAL BOARD ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

MAY 2026 - APRIL 2027

### INFORMATION ON 2026 BOARD ELECTION NOMINEES

**Election Deadline:**  
 Election ballots need to be returned in a self-addressed stamped envelope by **4:30pm on Friday April 17th.**

Read the candidates biographies & learn more about how residents can become a Corporate Member:  
[wcchc.com/corporatemembership](http://wcchc.com/corporatemembership)

WAIANAЕ COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER

## CHUCK WOTHKE

HEALTH CAREER SCHOLARSHIP

# OVER \$5,000 SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AVAILABLE

Chuck Wothke was one of the original founders of the Health Center over 50 years ago and a longtime WCCHC board member until he passed away in 2005. Chuck was a firm believer in education and advocated for health care and training opportunities for Leeward community residents. Well over 125 college-bound residents have benefited from the Chuck Wothke scholarship award that offers financial support to students pursuing higher education in health career programs in Hawaii and on the mainland.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
 Applications must be postmarked no later than April 3, 2026 or delivered in person by 4:30pm on April 3, 2026.  
 For an application, visit: [wcchc.com/scholarships](http://wcchc.com/scholarships)

(808) 697-3457 | [info@wcchc.com](mailto:info@wcchc.com)

# Talk Story Tuesdays

**HEALTH INSURANCE**  
 Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) is a short term program that monitors your health from home using medical devices. Readings are sent directly to your care team, no logging required.

**TOPICS**  
 MEDICAID, SNAP, SLIDING FEE SCALE  
 WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEDICARE

**2026**  
 April 14 | 9am-11am  
 WCCHC DINING PAVILION

**Plan Advisors** | WAIANAЕ COAST COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CENTER  
 April 21 | 9am-11am  
 WAIPAHU FAMILY HEALTH CENTER  
 FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER

**Register Today!**  
 TO REGISTER, CALL PATIENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES AT (808) 697-3405 OR EMAIL: [PAS@WCCHC.COM](mailto:PAS@WCCHC.COM)

**FREE TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE**  
 From Makaha to Honokai Hale

# WE ARE OPEN ON SATURDAYS

**Walk-in Clinics (Waianae & Kapolei)**  
 LOCATED AT WAIANAЕ MALL & KAPOLEI MEDICAL PARK

**Pharmacy Clinics (Waianae & Kapolei)**  
 LOCATED AT TAMURA SUPER MARKET & KAPOLEI MEDICAL PARK

**Pediatric Clinic (Kapolei)**  
 LOCATED AT KAPOLEI MEDICAL PARK



APRIL 2026 | RICHARD BETTINI, PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | DR. DONALD SIMPSON, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER | GINGER FUATA, CHAIRPERSON

## WCCHC HOSTED REPRESENTATIVE DAISY HARTSFIELD TO WAIPAHU FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center recently welcomed Representative Daisy Hartsfield for a visit to the Waipahu Family Health Center, where she met with staff and learned more about the clinic's role in serving families across West O'ahu.

Representative Hartsfield represents House District 36, which includes the community of Waipahu. She was appointed to the Hawai'i State House of Representatives by Governor Josh Green in January 2026 following the appointment of former Representative Rachele Lamosao to the State Senate.

The clinic is located at the Filipino Community Center and provides primary care, behavioral health and social services to patients throughout the area. During the visit, WCCHC staff provided an overview of services offered at the Waipahu

Family Health Center and discussed plans to expand care delivery in the community through a proposed State Legislative Grant-in-Aid.

WCCHC is seeking capital funding to build out additional clinical and social service space adjacent to the current clinic to meet growing demand for care. The expansion would allow the health center to convert additional office space into clinical areas, add exam rooms, and create a Social Services Resource Hub to help patients access essential programs such as applying for Medicaid, SNAP, housing assistance, and other public benefits.

The renovation would also support the creation of a Health and Wellness Learning Center to expand workforce development programs and provide space for training, community health education, and community engagement activities.

This year, WCCHC celebrates more than 30 years of service in Waipahu, and investments in the clinic will help ensure the community continues to have access to quality, comprehensive healthcare close to home.



Representative Hartsfield Visits WCCHC's Waipahu Family Health Center at the Filipino Community Center

**Craft Fair**  
*Save the date!*

WAIANAЕ COAST  
COMPREHENSIVE  
HEALTH CENTER

Find treasures, ono food, or a Mother's Day gift at our annual craft fair!

**Friday, May 8, 2026 | 7:00 AM - 1:30 PM**  
WCCHC Main Campus - Great Lawn

**Free Admission**

**MONITOR YOUR HEALTH From Home**

Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM)

We provide devices that monitor your:

- Blood Pressure
- Oxygen Levels
- Weight

**Who Qualifies?**

- Medicare, Medicaid, or Private Insurance
- Seen a WCCHC PCP in the last 12 months
- Has a chronic condition (Diabetes, HTN, COPD & more)

**Benefits**

- Stay Home
- Early Alerts
- Better Control

**How It Works**

We Provide The Device > You Monitor At Home > Data Sent To Your Care Team

Call (808) 697-3265 to enroll

**Train to be a Medical Assistant with nimaa today!**

Apply for the 2026 Fall Cohort!

EARLY ADMISSION APPLICATION DEADLINE: **April 22, 2026**

Attend a virtual information session

INFO SESSIONS: **April 7 & 21, 2026**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **May 27, 2026**

Apply at [nimaa.edu](http://nimaa.edu)

For more information, visit [wcchc.com/nimaa](http://wcchc.com/nimaa)

**Na Lei Kukui NURSE PRACTITIONER (NP) RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

Now accepting applications for **Class of 2026-2027**

Application Deadline for Primary Care NP Residency **DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2026**

**WHO CAN APPLY:**

- Recent Nurse Practitioner Graduates: Must be within 18 months of licensure and certification
- AANP/ANCC Certification or eligible for certification
- Hawaii RN or APRN License or eligible for license

FOR MORE INFORMATION visit: [wcchc.com/npresidency](http://wcchc.com/npresidency)



# Out and About with Lei'a By Lei'a Haff Leia.vhaff@gmail.com

## The Role of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in the Wai'anae Moku

The Hawaiian Civic Clubs were formed to uplift the lāhui (people), preserve Hawaiian culture, advocate for the well-being of Native Hawaiians, and create spaces where community members could gather around shared values, identity and purpose. Since their founding, these clubs have served as important pillars of leadership, service, education and cultural continuity within communities across Hawai'i.

At their core, Hawaiian Civic Clubs were established to ensure that Hawaiian voices, traditions and needs would continue to be recognized and carried forward. They were created not simply as organizations, but as places of pili-na (relationships) where relationships are strengthened, 'ike (knowledge) is passed down, and the collective responsibility to care for culture and community is actively lived.

On the Wai'anae Coast, that legacy continues through the four clubs that make up the Wai'anae Moku of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs: the Wai'anae Hawaiian Civic Club; Māka-ha Hawaiian Civic Club; Lualualei Hawaiian Civic Club and Nānāikapono



Wai'anae Hawaiian Civic Club members getting ready for the Wai'anae Christmas Parade

Hawaiian Civic Club. Each club serves an important role within the community while contributing to the larger vision of strengthening the Wai'anae Coast through Hawaiian values, civic engagement, and cultural stewardship. Together, these clubs reflect the enduring purpose of the Hawaiian Civic Club movement as they create opportunities for community members of all ages to gather, learn, serve, and lead. They help ensure that Hawaiian culture is not only remembered but practiced in meaningful and relevant ways through education, advocacy, service, and relationship-building.

The Wai'anae Hawaiian Civic Club,



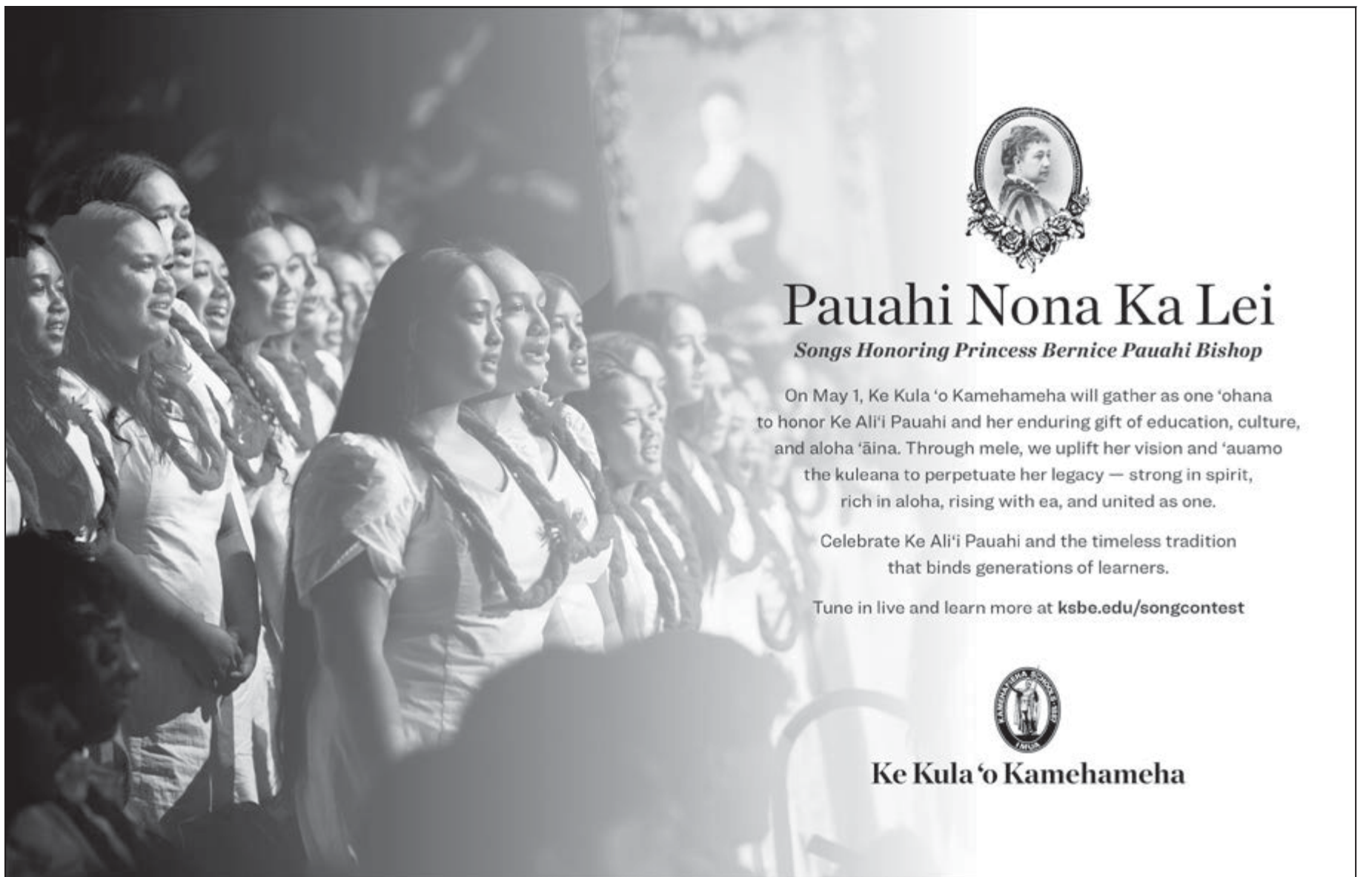
Some of the members of Lualualei Hawaiian Civic Club at a recent meeting

now celebrating 90 years, stands as one example of this commitment in action. With deep roots in the community, the club continues to create spaces where people can come together in fellowship and purpose. Its weekly gatherings, open to the public, focus on kūkākūkā (talk story/discuss) and learning to speak 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and kanikapila (jam session) bringing people together through language and music.

This work reflects something larger than any one meeting or program. It speaks to the role Hawaiian Civic Clubs have long played — building connection, nurturing leadership and strengthening the cultural foundations

of community life. New efforts, including 'Ōlelo Hawai'i programming that creates opportunities for organizations to learn together, continue that tradition by recognizing that revitalization happens collectively. Language, culture, and identity are strengthened when people make intentional space to learn alongside one another.

The four civic clubs of Wai'anae Moku remain a reminder that strong communities are built through steady, consistent acts of service, gathering and cultural practice as they continue to carry forward a legacy rooted in aloha 'āina, kuleana and the collective uplift of the lāhui.



### Pauahi Nona Ka Lei

*Songs Honoring Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop*

On May 1, Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha will gather as one 'ohana to honor Ke Ali'i Pauahi and her enduring gift of education, culture, and aloha 'āina. Through mele, we uplift her vision and 'auamo the kuleana to perpetuate her legacy — strong in spirit, rich in aloha, rising with ea, and united as one.

Celebrate Ke Ali'i Pauahi and the timeless tradition that binds generations of learners.

Tune in live and learn more at [ksbe.edu/songcontest](https://ksbe.edu/songcontest)

Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha



## LAUNCHING IN MAY 2026

### Our Nurse Aide Program is coming to Nānākuli!

Learn to care for your community with training close to home. Earn a certificate in just eight weeks and start your career in the healthcare field.



Visit [ahihawaii.org/nurse-aide](https://ahihawaii.org/nurse-aide) or scan the QR code to learn more about the Nurse Aide Program and how to apply.

ACADEMY FOR  
HEALTHCARE  
INNOVATION



# Westside Students Inspired at VOR Girls' Leadership Conference

Submitted by Denice Keliikoa

Seventy-two sixth-grade girls from Westside elementary schools gathered on Girls' Day, March 3, for the Valley of Rainbows Girls' Leadership Conference held at Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa at Ko Olina. The one-day event encouraged young wahine to develop confidence, build friendships, and explore future leadership opportunities.

Students from Wai'anae, Leihoku, Mākaha, Mā'ili, Nānākuli, and Nānālika-pono Elementary Schools, along with their chaperones, participated in a full day of activities designed to inspire goal-setting and personal growth.

The conference began with group photos in the courtyard and Kaiona Ballroom followed by a lively "Meet and Mingle" activity where students connected with new friends from other schools. The program opened with a welcome and pule and a special message from Auntie Dawn Farm-Ramsey Luahiwa, who encouraged the girls to believe in their abilities and strive for their goals.

The morning session, "Leading the Way: Wahine with Goals," was facilitated by Georgette Stevens and featured guest speakers who shared their experiences in education, careers, and community leadership. Speakers included Vanessa Razon, nurse practitioner and assistant director of School-Based Health at Waianae Coast Comprehensive



Attendees were encouraged to explore future leadership opportunities

sive Health Center; Honolulu Police Department Community Policing officer Sharon Marcos; Dr. Genevieve "Lei" Aken, Career and Technical Education Coordinator at Wai'anae High School; and Kaylee "La'i" Kuhaulua, a Wai'anae High School student and DECA member.

Students also participated in "Think, Type, Thrive! Rise Above, No Room for Bullying," a session led by Honolulu Police Department officers Chantilly "Tee" Pratt-Maiva and Sharon Marcos, focusing on positive decision-making and respectful communication both online and in everyday life.

A highlight of the program was a special performance by the Nānākuli Elementary "Rising Stars," showcasing the talents of students from the Wai'anae Coast. Following lunch, participants

rotated through interactive workshops led by community leaders and professionals. Sessions included "TechTastic Girls!" led by Michele "Chrissy" Kuahine and volunteers from Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center; "Aloha Spirit Law," presented by Georgette Stevens of Ka'ala Farm; "The Art of Dining," led by Aulani banquet manager Reid Hirata; and "Path to Possibilities!" facilitated by Leeward Community College counselor and professor Jan Shimabukuro-Lee.

The day concluded with students sharing reflections about what they learned and enjoyed most. Many spoke about the value of meeting new friends, hearing inspiring stories, and

learning how education and positive choices can shape their futures. Students closed the conference by forming a large circle, joining hands, and singing "Hawai'i Aloha," followed by a guided tour of the resort led by Disney Aulani cast members.



HPD CPT officer Sharon Marcos shared Cyber Safety Tips with conference attendees.



Our 'āina.  
Our 'ōpio.  
Our future.

A thriving lāhui begins with resilient 'āina. By coming together with our communities to steward 'āina, we help cultivate a vibrant future for our keiki, our kaiāulu and all of Hawai'i.



Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha



# “What's Up” on the Westside

\*\* Please visit our Facebook page for updated events that are happening throughout the month here on our Westside\*\*

## APRIL 2026 Calendar of Events

**April 2**  
7 pm — NPAC Presents *The Little Mermaid* at NHIS' Multi-Purpose Café

**April 3**  
**Good Friday Holiday**  
2 pm — Ark of Safety's Easter Egg Hunt at Wai'anae Intermediate School  
7 pm — NPAC Presents *The Little Mermaid* at NHIS' Multi-Purpose Café

**April 4 & 5**  
Rell Sunn's Menehune Surf Championships at Mākaha Surfing Beach

**April 4**  
1 pm — Ark of Safety's Easter Egg Hunt at Wai'anae Intermediate School  
7 pm — NPAC Presents *The Little Mermaid* at NHIS' Multi-Purpose Café

**Sunday, April 5th**  
**Happy Easter**

**April 11**  
10 am — Shinyei Nakamine Dedication Ceremony at Wai'anae District Park

**April 24**  
6 pm — Baba B concert at Mākaha Valley Country Club Liliko'i Lounge  
7 to 8:30 pm — Rep Muraoka's Talk Story at Wai'anae YMCA



**April 25**  
10 am — Wai'anae Hawaiian Civic Club's 'Ukulele Festival at Nānākuli Library  
11am to 3 pm — Project Hope Community Event at BGCH Wai'anae Clubhouse

### CLUBS, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

**AARP Chapter 4936 of Wai'anae**  
9:30 am on the first Friday of each month at the Wai'anae Community Center (Satellite City Hall).  
Call Patrick Maher at 808-545-6003.

**Aerobics (Low Impact)**  
4 to 5 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Wai'anae District Park. For more information, contact Flo Pell at 808-696-2776.

**Aikido**  
Daily classes, morning, afternoon and evening for children, teens and adults. Call 808.202.6171 or 808.462-1118.

**B&G Club Hawai'i**  
— Wai'anae Clubhouse  
Afterschool programs for youth & teens Grades 2nd thru 12th. Register at: [membership.bgch.com](http://membership.bgch.com) or call 808-696-2754.

**La Kōkua Ka'ala Farm**  
9 am to 12 noon on the 2nd Saturday of each month to mālama 'āina, lo'i and weeding. All are welcomed! Call 808.696.4954 or check our website [www.kaalafarm.org](http://www.kaalafarm.org)

**Lualualei Hawaiian Civic Club**  
3rd Thursday of every month at 6 pm and held both in-person and virtually via zoom at KS Learning Center in Mā'ili. For more information, Email: [lualualeihcc808@gmail.com](mailto:lualualeihcc808@gmail.com) or visit our Instagram: [@lualualeihcc808](https://www.instagram.com/lualualeihcc808) or Facebook: Lualualei Hawaiian Civic Club

**Mākaha Bridge Club**  
10 am on Wednesdays and Saturdays at Liliko'i Lounge (Mākaha Valley Country Club). Call Kay Smith at 808-695-7844 for more information.

**Mākaha Red Hatters**  
2nd Monday of each month at various restaurants along the Westside. If you would like to join this club, call "Queen" Gerry Ottinger at 808-399-2594.

**Maj Jongg (American style)**  
Tuesdays at 11 am at "Beach House by 604" (Army Rest Camp) Call Coco at 808-330-4765 for more information. *Beginners welcomed!*

**Nānākuli-Mā'ili Neighborhood Board #36**  
7 pm on the third Tuesday of the month at Nānākuli Public Library's meeting room. Call Neighborhood Commission Office at 808-768-3710 for more information or visit [honolulu.gov/nco](http://honolulu.gov/nco)

**St John the Baptist Church Thrift Shop**  
Wednesdays. from 9am-1pm  
Thursday 1pm-5pm Stop by for great

bargains! To volunteer, please email [revjazzybostock@gmail.com](mailto:revjazzybostock@gmail.com)

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
VFW Post 849 (Leeward Coast) monthly membership meetings at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at "Beach House by 604" (Piliilau Army Rest Camp). Our mission is to serve our veterans, the military, and our community. For more information, contact Steve Mayoral at 310-365-7048.

**Wai'anae Coast Neighborhood Board #24**  
6:30 pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month at Wai'anae Public Library. For more information, contact Neighborhood Commission Office at 808-768-3710 or visit [honolulu.gov/nco](http://honolulu.gov/nco)

**Waianae Coast Rotary Club**  
12 noon on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at "Beach House by 604" (PARC) Piliilau Army Rec. Center (Rest Camp). For more information, contact: [waianae coastrotary.org](http://waianae coastrotary.org) or Craig Alvarado at [craigalvarado@bhshawaii.com](mailto:craigalvarado@bhshawaii.com)

**Wai'anae Farmer's Market**  
**Mākeke 'Iki** 9am to 12 Noon every Tuesday at WCCCH Main Campus.  
**Mākeke Wai'anae** 8 am to 12 noon every Saturday at Wai'anae Mall. For more information call 808-697-3709.

**Wai'anae Hawaiian Civic Club**  
5:30 to 7:30 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month at the KS Learning Center in Mā'ili. Contact [waianae hawaiiancivicclub.org](http://waianae hawaiiancivicclub.org) for more information..

**Women of Wai'anae**  
For more information visit [womenofwaianae.org](http://womenofwaianae.org) or call Karen Young at 808-388-8828. *Focus is on fundraisers for non-traditional college scholarships.*

Continued >

**Happy Easter!**

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**HOPPY EASTER**

**Westside Stories**  
"THE PRIDE OF THE WESTSIDE"  
A monthly newspaper serving the communities of Nānākuli, Mā'ili, Wai'anae and Mākaha

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PLEASE FILL OUT FORM, ENCLOSE PAYMENT OF \$35.00 (FOR 12 ISSUES) AND MAIL TO: WESTSIDE STORIES - P.O. Box 4027 - WAI'ANAe, HAWAII 96792

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

# Rep. Kila

Continued from page 4

ment of Transportation crews, utility workers, and city and county teams have been working around the clock, often under difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep our communities safe and to restore critical services. Many of these individuals are not only serving others but are also navigating impacts to their own homes and families at the same time. To each of you, mahalo. Your service does not go unnoticed.

volunteers, community organizations, and neighbors who have stepped up in meaningful ways, checking on kūpuna, helping clear debris, distributing food and supporting those in need. That spirit of looking out for one another is what defines our Westside.

As your representative, my office has remained in constant communication with state and county agencies, as well as first responders on the ground. Our focus continues to be on ensuring that resources are deployed where they are most needed and that our communities are not overlooked in both response and

recovery efforts.

As we move forward, one of the most important things residents can do is document any damage or impacts experienced. For those with homeowners or renters insurance, please take clear photos and videos of all damages, keep records of any temporary repairs or expenses, save receipts for anything related to cleanup or mitigation and contact your insurance provider as soon as possible to begin the claims process.

It is important not to begin permanent repairs until your insurance adjuster has had the opportunity to assess the damage, unless necessary for immediate safety.

Beyond individual claims, this documentation is also critical at a broader level. The City and County of Honolulu and the State rely on community-reported damage data to assess the full

scope of impact. That information helps determine whether Hawai'i can qualify for additional state or federal disaster assistance and ensures that our communities receive the support they need. Even if the damage may seem minor, it is important to report it.

We understand that recovery does not happen overnight. Please continue to look out for one another, extend grace and stay connected. My office remains available to assist in any way we can, whether helping connect you to services, relaying concerns to the appropriate agencies, or advocating for the resources our communities deserve. If you or your 'ohana need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly at [repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov) or (808) 586-9480. We will continue to stand with you through both response and recovery.

**HAPPY EASTER**  
**LILIKOI LOUNGE** HAPPY EASTER!  
 AT MĀKAHA VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB Mākaha Valley Country Club

**Baba B Concert**  
 April 24th at 6:00 pm  
 \$30 PRESALE / \$40 AT DOOR

**First Friday KARAOKE**  
 APRIL 3RD  
 5 to 10 pm

**Mother's Day**  
**Prime Rib & Crab Legs**  
 — RESERVATIONS ONLY —

**CLOSED EASTER**  
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 Take your receipt to LANTERNS for a DISCOUNT!

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**HAPPY HOUR — LIVE SPORTS —**  
 OPEN DAILY 8AM - 5PM

# Transition Fair

Continued from page 6

cheese hot dogs, fully loaded nachos, and hearty kalua pig and cabbage rice bowls. Sweet treats like cookie butter mochi and Oreo delights quickly disappeared from the dessert table. One of the biggest attractions of the night was the student-operated coffee bar run by the Nav Brew Crew. Their signature Cookie Butter Latte and specialty drinks proved so popular that a line

wrapped around the cafeteria as families waited for a cup.

The evening also included prize giveaways that added to the excitement. For many families on the Westside, events like the Transition Fair fill a crucial gap. Organizers say many parents and students simply aren't aware of the services available to help them navigate adulthood after graduation. Bringing multiple agencies together in one place makes those resources easier to discover and access.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

THE **SHINYEI NAKAMINE**  
 AND 100TH INFANTRY BATTALION  
*Memorial Park*

DEDICATION CEREMONY

**04 | 11 | 26**  
**Saturday at 10:00 a.m.**

**Wai'anae District Park**  
 85-601 Farrington Highway  
 Wai'anae, HI 96792

**Project Hope Community Event**

Hosted by Wai'anae Clubhouse

**April 25th, 2026**

🕒 11 AM - 3 PM  
 📍 85-165 Plantation rd.

Join us for a fun-filled day with food booths, craft vendors, entertainment, games, a youth-led speaking panel addressing safety, and MORE

Call for more info at 696-2754

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**



**PVT**  
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ALOHA E KOMO MAI!  
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## Classes of '26 and '27 win the 35th NHIS Songfest

Nānākuli High & Intermediate School presented its Songfest 2026 on February 27 to a packed house in the school's gym.

PVT supported the school's Class of 2026 since its freshman year, and we did it again this year. This time, the senior class was joined by the junior Class of 2027, which performed in Songfest for the first time.

Their performance brought to life *Lai'eikawai*, which tells the story of an ancient, magical courtship. The classes were coached by Shanna Nahulu and Analu Rabanes.



**We Win!** —  
Songleader  
Alvin Vitale and  
the combined  
Classes of  
'26 and '27  
celebrate  
winning the  
NHIS Overall  
Song Award,  
sponsored  
by PVT.



## Catch *The Little Mermaid* before she swims away

The Nānākuli High and Intermediate School Performing Arts Center proudly presents Disney's *The Little Mermaid*.

Join Ariel and friends for a magical journey as the incredible students of NPAC bring this beloved story to life on stage. Bring your family, bring your friends, and come support NPAC's talented student performers as they sing, dance, and dream big under the sea.

There's still time to catch *The Little Mermaid* on April 2, 3 and 4 at 7 p.m. at the NHIS Multi-Purpose Building. Tickets may be purchased at [www.nhispac.com](http://www.nhispac.com) as well as at the door.



**The Little Mermaid** — *Dreaming of life beyond the sea, Ariel longs to discover what lies above the waves.*

## Like to run? Join the club

Leeward Track Club held its 2026 Tony Jones JV Track Meet—named in honor of Nānākuli High and Intermediate School's own Tony Jones—on March 19 at Waipahu High School. The event included teams from 14 OIA public schools and 4 ILH private schools competing in 22 events. PVT was a supporter of this event.



**On Track** — *Coach Tony Jones surveys the field. Like to run? Join the club. Contact Flora Nash at [nashag38@yahoo.com](mailto:nashag38@yahoo.com) for more information.*

## A record-breaking engagement

The talented student-performers of Nānākuli High and Intermediate School Performing Arts Center recently completed a record-breaking two-night performance of 35: NPAC ERAS at the Michael D.

Nakasone Performing Arts Center in Pearl City. Both performances played to a full house. After the second show, NPAC performers and supporters gathered on stage for a group photo.



**Take a Bow** — *NPAC performers and supporters gathered on stage after a record-breaking two-night performance.*



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# WCCHC Honors Nicholas Hughey for 10 Years with Mahalo & Farewell Gathering

*Submitted by WCCHC Communications*  
 The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) hosted a special Mahalo and Farewell Gathering on March 25 honoring outgoing Executive Vice President Nicholas Hughey and celebrating his more than ten years of dedicated service to the West O'ahu community.

Held on WCCHC's Great Lawn, the gathering brought together board members, staff, community partners and local leaders to recognize Hughey's contributions and lasting impact. The evening's formal program began with

a Ka Lei Maile Ceremony, setting the tone for a meaningful and culturally grounded tribute.

As part of the ceremony, WCCHC's Kupuna Council led a Hawaiian name dedication, gifting Hughey the name "Kapueookalani," meaning "Guardian of Heaven" which was a tribute to his leadership and care for both the organization and the community. Adding to the significance, Kamaki Kanahale, Director of the Center for Traditional Native Hawaiian Healing, shared, "A pueo (owl) always returns home and WCCHC will always be your home," highlighting



WCCHC's Board of Directors members Flo Pell, Ginger Fuata, Candy Suiso and DeRoy Lavatai presented Hughey (center) with a special gift.

Hughey's enduring connection to the Wai'anae Coast.

Over the past decade, Hughey has played a central role in strengthening WCCHC's operational systems and clinical infrastructure. Serving more than 36,000 patients annually from Wai'anae to Waipahu, the health center relies on strong systems and efficient operations—areas where his leadership made a lasting impact. His leadership extended beyond day-to-day operations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Hughey served as Incident Commander, guiding the organization through an unprecedented public health crisis. He also helped launch workforce development initiatives, including WCCHC's first Medical Assistant training program, creating new career pathways for local residents and staff. Deeply committed to developing future leaders, he supported young and emerging professionals through mentorship and growth opportunities that will continue to shape WCCHC's workforce.

Hughey also advanced key infrastructure and safety improvements, including the establishment of a Safety and Security Committee and enhancements across campuses—helping create safer environments for both patients and staff.

Beyond internal operations, he also strengthened regional partnerships and supported advocacy efforts that secured critical funding for after-hours emergency services. He also played a key role in expanding WCCHC's communications, branding, and public presence, helping unify the organization across its sites.

The evening served not only as a farewell, but as a reflection on the partnerships and shared work that continue to strengthen healthcare access across West O'ahu. "Nick's impact is reflected not only in the systems he helped build, but in the people and relationships he invested in," said President and CEO Rich Bettini. "His leadership, collaboration, and commitment to our community will have a lasting impact for decades to come."



WCCHC's Executive Leadership Team presented Hughey (center) with a special gift in recognition of his contributions

## Wai'anae Public Library Hawai'i State Public Library System April 2026

The library will be closed Friday, April 3 for Good Friday.



### Book Club 3rd Wednesdays, Apr 15 @ 6:00

Join us for our in-person book club on the 3rd Wednesday of each month! The book that we will be discussing in this meeting is **The Bookbinder's Secret** by A.D. Bell.

### Dr. Seuss Raps! With Mr. Kneel Wed, Apr 15 @ 2:00

Mr. Kneel comes back again for a rap! Join us for an afterschool explosion of fun in this 45-minute session filled with beatboxing, hip-hop, and lots of laughs. All ages are welcome!



<b>Family Storytime</b> Saturdays @ 10:00 April 4, 11, 25	<b>AARP Free Tax Prep</b> Wednesdays @ 9:00 April 1, 8	<b>Toddler Time</b> Tuesdays @ 9:30 April 7, 14, 21, 28
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### HTY Presents: The Tiny Tree Sat, Apr 18 @ 10:00

Embark on an unforgettable cosmic adventure performance filled with upbeat songs, delightful creatures, and exciting adventures that teaches the importance of caring for our planet and each other. This 40 minute play is appropriate for ages 4+.

### Writing Group Mondays, Apr 13 and 27 @ 1:00

Join us for a new self-guided writing circle that is a small safe place to practice your writing skills, learn from others, and share your own work, thoughts, and dreams.



Get 1-On-1 Tech Help with a **Digital Navigator**. Book your appointment for Monday morning or Saturday afternoon. Call the library for more information.



Wai'anae Public Library is located at 85-625 Farrington Hwy. 96792 808-697-7868  
 Email: [owncirc@librarieshawaii.org](mailto:owncirc@librarieshawaii.org)

## NĀNĀKULI PUBLIC LIBRARY APRIL 2026 PROGRAMS



- FRI 10, 17, 24** KEIKI STORYTIME EVERY FRIDAY 11:30AM
- SAT 11** MESSY PLAYTIME 10AM-11AM
- THUR 2** SILENT DISCO 5:00PM-8:00PM
- TUE 21** PERLER PARTY 2:30PM-3:30PM
- FRI 3** LIBRARY CLOSED: GOOD FRIDAY
- MON 27** 'OHANA GAME NIGHT 5PM-7PM
- MON 6** HUI LEI 5:30PM-7PM
- TUE 7** LEGO TIME 2:30PM-3:30PM



For more info visit [librarieshawaii.org/events](http://librarieshawaii.org/events)